

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

I. Status of the Claims

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-14, 16-19, and 39-64 remain pending. Claim 15 has been canceled herein.

Claims 1-5, 7-13, 16-18, 39-42, 44, and 50-53 have been amended.

Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to incorporate the requirements of their base claim 1. All other claims amendments were made to make the claims depend from allowed claim 6 or from a claim which depends from allowed claim 6.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

A. Acres et al.

Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 16-18, and 39-42, which were rejected as being anticipated by Acres et al. (U.S. 3,915,898), have been amended to make them depend from claim 6 or to depend from a claim which depends from claim 6. Since claim 6 is allowed, applicants submit that these claims are allowable and respectfully request that the rejection over Acres et al. be withdrawn.

B. Capuano et al.

Claims 4, 12-18, and 50-54, which were rejected as being anticipated by Capuano et al. (U.S. 5,126,216), have been amended to make them depend from claim 6 or to depend from a claim which depends from claim 6. Since claim 6 is allowed, applicants submit that these claims are allowable and

respectfully request that the rejection over Capuano et al. be withdrawn.

C. Freund et al.

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 12-19, and 39-62, which were rejected as being anticipated by Freund et al. (U.S. 5,767,036), have been amended to make them depend from claim 6 or to depend from a claim which depends from claim 6 or already depend from claim 6. Since claim 6 is allowed, applicants submit that these claims are allowable and respectfully request that the rejection over Freund et al. be withdrawn.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the indication that claims 6 and 64 are allowed.

Claims 10 and 11 have been rewritten in independent form and include all of the limitations of the base claim 1 and are therefore in condition for allowance.

Since all of the currently pending claims are either allowed or depend from a claim which is allowed, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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